

**Hazen City Commission  
Regular Meeting  
September 18, 2023  
Hazen City Hall**

**Present:** Commissioner Pillar, Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Wiedrich.

**Absent:** President Obenauer and Commissioner Haack

**Others Present:** Attorney Kaffar, PW Brousseau, Editor Arens, A J Beyer, Chief Wolff, Auditor Erhardt, Jerod Klabunde (Moore Engineering), Manal Guirguis, and Buster Langowski.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Vice-President Pillar.

Vice-President Pillar led the Pledge of Allegiance and said the prayer.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to suspend the reading and approve the minutes of the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, as presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

**Agenda:** Commissioner Stern moved to approve the agenda, as presented, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. Motion unanimously approved.

**CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY & ENGINEER**

**Engineer's Report:** Jerod Klabunde, Moore Engineering, presented the engineer's report. Regarding the water storage tank project, Tand Construction completed seeding and restoration of areas of the project and asphalt patching will be done later this week, or next. PW Director Brousseau was contacted by Quality Asphalt to begin work on September 20<sup>th</sup>. A punch list of items to be addressed has been prepared and most of the items have been completed.

Regarding Expedition Estates, backfilling of the sewer repairs continues with an engineer onsite most of the time. It is not certain if all repairs will be completed this year but, replacement of the asphalt will only be addressed in 2024.

Regarding the alley between Central Ave/1<sup>st</sup> Ave NW, north of Main Street, the survey has been completed and Mr. Klabunde presented preliminary cost information which will be presented in the formal engineer's report in October, with a hope of bidding the project, if approved, in January or February. Preliminary estimates have project construction costs at \$498,000 if all private property areas are completed.

In other matters, Mr. Klabunde provided estimates for other items on the capital improvement plan including SCADA updates for two (2) lift stations in the amount of \$50,000; repairs to sections of the shared use paths around the city at a total cost of \$306,000.

**REQUEST OF CITIZENS**

**Local Permit – Bingo/Raffle – Hazen Public School:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve local permit #2023-14, requested by Hazen Public School, for raffle/bingo events throughout the school year, second by Commissioner Stern. Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND BUILDING PERMITS**

**Commercial Building Permit – Hazen Mercantile Inc:** The commission reviewed an application for a

commercial building permit, requested by Hazen Mercantile, to construct an addition to the north portion of the building they own on Main Street. The commission was advised that there is no request for variance as the building will be situated similarly to the buildings already at the location and setbacks are minimal for commercial areas. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the building permit, as requested by Hazen Mercantile, second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, Commissioner Stern asked about visibility when exiting the alley and was advised this will not be an issue because of the boulevard spacing on the street. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.

## REPORTS

**Water/Sewer/Garbage:** Commissioner Pillar informed the board that he, and staff, participated in a presentation for water meters available from Dakota Supply Group (DSG). Commissioner Pillar said the primary need is to replace the MXU on the current meters but, since the current meters are also near end of life, this is an opportunity to replace them without the need of a separate reading apparatus. The process will include specifications for bidding on the replacement and working with the engineer to determine outside funding sources that may be available. The meters presented would be deliverable to the city in four (4) to six (6) weeks.

**Street/Cemetery:** Commissioner Haack absent. No report. PW Director Brousseau had nothing to report at this time.

**Finance/Busing/Library:** Commissioner Stern had nothing to report at this time.

**Police/Fire/Forestry:** Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that Officer Anthony Melberg has submitted a letter of resignation and that his position will be posted in the newspaper, and online, this week.

Regarding forestry, Commissioner Wiedrich informed the board that he had a discussion with the forester, Mike Lemer, about obtaining his commercial applicator certification and that Mr. Lemer is willing to pursue this.

**HCD:** Buster Langowski had nothing to report at this time.

**President:** President Obenauer absent. No report.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Control Device – 5<sup>th</sup> St/3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE:** Officer Beyer appeared before the commission to discuss his request for a control device at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Street NE and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE. Officer Beyer stated there are many children using this area to travel to, and from, school at that he has seen several "close calls" with vehicles, and pedestrians, at this location. Officer Beyer stated that speed is part of the issue as the north/south street is not posted, so it is a 25MPH area and 5<sup>th</sup> Street is posted as 15MPH. Commissioner Pillar asked if the control device should be placed to affect the north/south or east/west traffic. Officer Beyer suggested a stop sign to control the north/south traffic with Chief Wolff commenting about the different speeds of the streets. Commissioner Stern indicated he would prefer a yield sign, rather than a stop sign, at the intersection. Attorney Kaffar indicated a yield sign is likely to have less affect on speeds. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to install stop signs, to control north/south traffic on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE, second by Commissioner Stern. Upon discussion, Commissioner Wiedrich suggested the commission also consider adjusting speed limits of the area, in the future. Commissioner

Stern said that, in the older part of town, it seems like you must drive a block; stop, drive a block, and stop again. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Nay", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.

**Mower Repair/Replacement:** The commission continued discussion on repairing the 2016 mower and replacing the 2010 mower. PW Director Brousseau said RDO equipment provided a trade-in value for the 2010 mower of \$5500. PW Director Brousseau informed the commission that valves on the 2016 mower were stuck, and the technician needs to conduct further investigation to determine if there is any damage to the mower but cannot provide an estimate to complete the diagnosis. PW Director Brousseau said he may need to pull the head, at an additional cost of \$800 and Commissioner Wiedrich suggested pulling the injector and scoping the valve to determine any damage. Commissioner Stern still would like to see the one mower repaired prior to deciding on purchasing a new mower with Commissioner Wiedrich agreeing. The bid for purchase of new mower expires on October 5<sup>th</sup>, after the next commission meeting. Commissioner Stern moved to expend up to \$3500 to diagnose and repair the 2016 mower, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.

**Angle Blade/ Snow Gate Estimate:** PW Director Brousseau received an estimate, from Hazen Welding, to repair the angle blades and fabricate a second snow-gate for the city to use for snow removal. The estimated cost is \$5500 each, for repair of the angle blades and \$9500 to fabricate and install the snow gate. When asked, PW Director Brousseau said a new snow-gate would cost approximately \$15000, not including installation and that Hazen Welding has the work scheduled to start on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Stern moved to proceed with the repair of the angle blades and fabrication/installation of the snow-gate at an estimated cost of \$20,500, second by Commissioner Wiedrich. On roll call vote: Stern, "Aye", Wiedrich, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Concrete Replacement Estimate(s) – Water Valve Repair:** The commission reviewed an estimate to repair concrete, from Meissner Contracting in the amount of \$2,375, because of water valve repairs near Swanson Chiropractic. The engineer will determine if this cost can be included in the water storage tank project as the valves failed after the new tower went into service. Motion by Commissioner Wiedrich to accept the proposal of Meissner Contracting to make the concrete repairs at a cost of \$2375, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.

**Loader Tire Purchase:** PW Director Brousseau provided two (2) estimates to replace tires on both loaders. There was discussion about the need to replace tires on the old loader depending on when it may be replaced and if the bids were for like tires. The quotes received are: \$15902.74 from OK Tire, and \$19,080 from Lignite Tire. Both estimates include installation on-site. Commissioner Wiedrich asked about funding and was advised that there are still sufficient funds in the budget to make the purchase this year. Commissioner Wiedrich moved to accept the quote of OK Tire for replacement of the loader tires at a cost of \$15,902.74, second by Commissioner Stern. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Manal Guirguis addressed the commission with concerns about things happening in Hazen, and throughout the country. Ms. Guirguis spoke about Hazen being declared a disaster by FEMA, that she has been contacted by her mortgage holder about this declaration and is unable to get any answers when contacting FEMA. Ms. Guirguis spoke about FEMA having an agenda since the time of the lockdowns which is being pushed to transform humanity and depopulate the world through the climate change emergency. Ms. Guirguis spoke about the dangers of carbon capture, 5G, and the effects new lighting has on the population and the need for people to wake up and stand up to the changes forced on them.

**Approval of Bills:** Commissioner Wiedrich moved to approve the bills presented, second by Commissioner Stern. Pre-paid and bills approved for payment are as follows: Cenex, 1412.42; D&E Supply, 179.30; Fitterer Oil-Hazen LLC, 174.75; Hazen Rural Fire Dept, 7203.28; Hazen Star, 517.98; Heather Cline, 210.00; ITD, 28.30; J-S Sanitation, 208.00; Jarid Dauenhauer, 257.10; Loren Wiest, 925.00; Millennium Express, 16.33; MDU, 4335.96; ND Dept of Health, 32.00; ND DEQ, 166.83; ND One Call Inc, 51.45; Northern Safety Co, 79.12; OK Tire Store, 1576.34; Pam Borlaug, 74.67; Power Plan, 3017.92; Rough Rider Industries, 1192.00; Roughrider Electric Coop Inc, 2977.83; Stamps.com, 99.54; Starion Bond Services, 9386.25; Swanston Equipment Corp, 441.30; The Hub, 2285.06; Tony Lauer, 37.26; USA Blue Book, 573.23. On roll call vote: Wiedrich, "Aye", Stern, "Aye", Pillar, "Aye", motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM CT. The next regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2023, at 5:30 PM CT in the Commission Room of the Hazen City Hall.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monte J. Erhardt, Auditor